Weatherby®

# ATHENA/ORION

## INSTRUCTION MANUAL

# CAUTION

**HEED THE FOLLOWING WARNINGS ON GUN HANDLING BEFORE ATTEMPTING TO USE YOUR SHOTGUN.**

- Be sure that the barrels are clear of any obstructions before loading. Make it a habit to check both barrels **every** time before reloading.
- Before setting off on a hunt or starting a round of skeet or trap, make sure that you have the proper ammunition. A 20-ga shell will enter a 12-ga chamber far enough to leave room for a 12-ga shell behind it. A damaged gun and possible injury to the shooter will result if the barrel is fired. Also, a 3-inch shell will chamber into a 2¾-inch chamber, but the crimp at the mouth will unfold into the forcing cone, causing possibly unsafe pressures.
- Store guns and ammunition separately, beyond the reach of children.
- Never climb a tree or fence, or jump a ditch, with a loaded gun. Open the barrels, remove the shells, and hand the gun to a friend or place it on the ground on the other side of the obstacle before crossing it yourself.
- Never place a loaded gun into a vehicle or lean the gun against any object. The gun should be emptied and placed into a case when not in use.
- Keep safety on at all times. Move to "Off" position only when you are sure that a shot is imminent.
- While loading or unloading, make sure that the gun is pointed in a safe direction. Keep finger off trigger while operating the action.
- Treat every gun as if it is loaded — it may be!
- Watch the muzzle at all times; never point the gun, accidentally or while horseplaying, at anything you do not **want** to shoot. Identify the target before shooting; do not shoot at sounds.
- Avoid alcoholic beverages before or during shooting.
- If you do not thoroughly understand the proper use and care of your gun, seek the advice of someone you **know** is competent.
- Don't abuse your gun or your hunting privileges. Both can be taken away from us due to public pressure against "slob" hunters.

# DIRECTIONS FOR ASSEMBLY

Before assembly, make sure that there are no shells or obstructions in the barrels, and that all parts are free of dirt and excess oil.

*Fig. 1*

1. Remove the forearm by pulling the forearm release latch and pivot the front of the forearm away from the barrels. (Fig. 1)

2. If the gun contact points are dry, put one or two drops of high quality gun oil on the areas shown in Fig. 2 (A), (B), (C), (D).

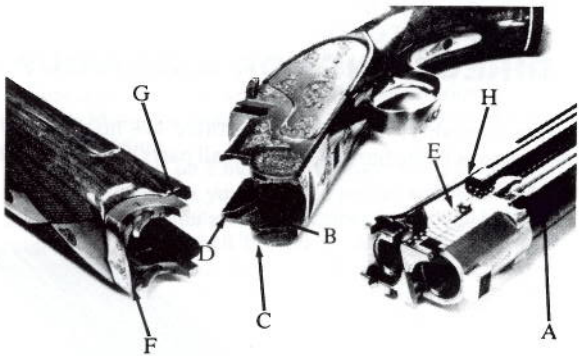


*Fig. 2*

3. To attach the barrels to the receiver, grasp the receiver at the pistol grip and tuck the butt section between your body and arm just above the waist.

4. Hold the barrels with the other hand from beneath the barrels (Fig. 3).

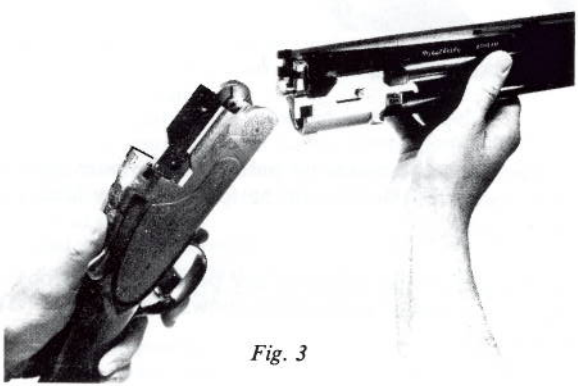

*Fig. 3*

## CAUTION

Do not disassemble your Athena/Orion beyond separating the forearm and barrels. Further disassembly is not required for normal care, and may cause damage to the mechanism. If repair is required, contact the Service Manager at Weatherby, Inc.

# OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

### TOP LEVER

The top lever controls the locking of the breech of the barrels to the receiver. To open the gun, move the top lever to its extreme right hand position and ease down the barrels. The top lever will remain in the "open" position until the barrels are again closed and locked, at which time the top lever automatically returns to the center position and the gun is ready to fire.

### BARREL SELECTOR

The barrel selector button is located in the upper part of the trigger (Fig. 6). The button is knurled for positive operation, and is marked so that a "U" shows when the under barrel is selected to fire first, and an "O" shows when the over, or top, barrel is selected.

*Fig. 6*

The single selective trigger operates by an inertia (recoil) switchover system. The second barrel will fire on a subsequent pull of the trigger only if the recoil energy of the first shot fired is sufficient to re-set the mechanism.

## SAFETY

The slide type safety is located on the top tang, where it is convenient to both right and left handers. When the safety is pushed to the rear, the letter "S" appears, and the trigger cannot be pulled. To fire, move the safety forward.

## SELECTIVE AUTOMATIC EJECTORS

The ejector system of the Athena/ Orion will eject only the fired case or cases and partially extract any unfired case for easy removal by hand.

## RECEIVER

The receivers of the Athena and Orion are designed for strength and durability. They are machined from one piece of forged steel, and have a double locking bolt. Both models are of the box lock design, while the Athena has side lock plates to enchance the beauty of the gun and to carry through the fine engraving design.

## BARRELS

Both the Athena and Orion have barrels made of heat treated chrome-moly steel. They are made with the modern monobloc construction for added strength. All barrels have ventilated ribs, with wide ribs on the trap and skeet guns. In addition, all Athena guns and trap and skeet Orion guns have ventilated side ribs to provide faster cooling of the barrels.

## AMMUNITION

The 20 ga. Athena/ Orion shotguns are chambered for 3″ magnum shells, and will shoot all 2¾″ and 3″ shells.

Athena/ Orion 12 ga. field-grade guns are chambered for 3″ shells, and will also shoot all standard and magnum 2¾″ shells. The 12 ga. skeet and trap guns are chambered for only 2¾″ shells.

## WARNING

The accidental chambering and discharge of shells of the wrong gauge can result in damage to your gun and possible injury to the shooter. To be safe, carry only the proper gauge ammunition with you when shooting.

## CLEANING

Periodically clean the bore with proper cleaning equipment and oil all metal surfaces with a light coat of good oil. A modern synthetic oil such as "Break Free® CLP™" is superior to the common petroleum products because it is effective over a broader temperature range. Never pour oil into the inside mechanism as it can hamper proper functioning and oil soak the wood. Make sure that the mating surfaces of the breech block and receiver are especially clean and lightly oiled to insure proper fit and locking, and to prevent unnecessary wear.